(b) if so, the salient features of the institute;

(c) whether it would be a joint venture collaboration of UGC and other Universities and the Ministry of Defence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Compensation to persons affected by incidents of Fire in Ordnance Depots

2623. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 522 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of the compensation offered by Government to the affected civilians; and

(b) whether an independent safety audit mechanism would be commissioned to safety arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Civilians were affected only in the fire accident that occurred on 28th April, 2000, in Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur. Based on details received from the Government of Rajasthan, the Ministry of Defence have ordered the payment of an amount of Rs. 2 lakhs each to the families of those two persons who died in this fire accident, and an amount of Rs. 1 lakh to compensate the seven injured therein.

(b) An independent audit mechanism already exists in the form of the Centre for Environment and Explosive Safety (CEES) and Defence Research and Development Organisation.

Surveillance and Intelligence Lapses in Kargil

2624. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the recent statement made by the former Chief of the Army Staff, General Ved Prakash Malik, as reported

in the 'Indian Express' dated 27th July, 2001 that both surveillance and intelligence lapses led to the Kargil conflicts; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the newspaper report. Even while the comments made by the former Chief of the Army Staff, as reported, were in his personal capacity and therefore, may not warrant any comments from the Government, it may be stated that the Government review all developments impinging upon national security, including intelligence and surveillance, on regular basis. The government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) on 17th April, 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and in particular, to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and to formulate specific proposals for implementation. The implementation process of the recommendations of the GOM is in progress.

Pendency of project undertaken by DEAL

†2625. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that many outgoing projects to fulfil requirements of the defence in Defence Electronics Application Laboratory based at Dehradun are being kept pending;

(b) if so, the projects DEAL is planning to keep pending;

(c) the extent of success Deal has achieved so far with regard to 'NAG' 'SARVADRISHTA' and 'NVIS' missile projects;

(d) whether DEAL has also decided to terminate some of the research and development projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to such newspaper reports. These reports are not factually correct. No projects of the laboratory are being kept pending. All the projects are progressing well.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) Project 'SARVADRISHTA' has already been completed successfully. Transmitter front end receiver for 'NAG' missile project has been developed and delivered. No project named 'NVIS' has been sanctioned.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.